

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) In a plasma display panel having a light-emitting element, the improvement comprising:

an oxide phosphor in particulate form, wherein

each particle has a surface region including a vicinity thereof modified so that an elemental composition of the surface region includes more halogen or chalcogen than an elemental composition of an internal region of the particle.

32. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 31, wherein

halogen atoms or chalcogen atoms are chemically bound to the surface region.

33. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 32, wherein

fluorine atoms are chemically bound to the surface region.

34. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 having one or more phosphor layers containing the oxide phosphor.

35. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 34 wherein

within each of the phosphor layers, the oxide phosphor is disproportionately distributed, with more residing at and near a surface of the phosphor layers than in an inner region.

36. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 wherein the phosphor particle is an alkaline earth metal aluminate phosphor.

37. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 36 wherein fluorine is bonded with the alkaline earth metal aluminate phosphor particles.

38. (New) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 wherein the phosphor particles are Europium-activated oxide phosphors.

39. (New) In a plasma display panel having a light-emitting element, the improvement comprising:

means for suppressing time-lapse changes in luminescent characteristics of the light-emitting element including oxide phosphor particles having surface regions of the particles modified so that an element composition of the surface region includes more of one of halogen and chalcogen than an elemental composition of an internal region of the particles.